

# SAFETY ALERT



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

AFZX-SA

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK  
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350  
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339




28 OCT 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Fatigue Causes a POV Accident -- Safety Alert 05-01

1. A recent accident involving three Soldiers returning to Ft. Polk occurred on Louisiana Highway 117 at 0520. The driver fell asleep at the wheel as the vehicle entered a curve and drifted across the lane onto the opposite shoulder of the road. The driver overcompensated, causing the vehicle to flip twice. The accident injured all three Soldiers, one with a broken neck.
2. Fatigue caused this accident. Drivers must have adequate sleep prior to driving even short distances. Squad leaders must look at the amount of time the soldier has worked and what the Soldier's plan is after duty hours. The best course of action when a driver is fatigued is to pull over to a safe and secure site and get some rest. Safety briefs must reinforce a safe method to regain control of a POV without overcompensating, should a driver lose control of the vehicle.
3. Soldiers, their family members, and civilians must ensure they have adequate rest, prior to driving any distance. Also, seatbelts saved lives in this accident. Ensure that when in a vehicle, you are always wearing yours!

**ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION, BRIEF TO ALL SOLDIERS, AND POST ON  
BULLETIN BOARDS!**

  
MICHAEL D. BARBERO  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

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